

OCT 31 1924 ✓

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THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS ✓

Photoplay in six reels ✓

✓ Written and directed by Geo. W. Hill ✓

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Columbia Pictures Corporation of U.S

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It has been a "large" party and the guests are pretty well done up.

Jack Oakes, the young and disolute host is arguing with Joseph Davis one of his guests about Davis' attention to Jessie Sybil. An insult is passed but there is no fight because Jack Oakes is known to be yellow. The guests gather about with wise looks. They are a fast crowd who have gathered about Jack Oakes because he has money and gives big parties.

When dawn breaks the party is over and Jack Oakes starts out with some others to take them home. They come to the railroad and nearly crash with the train which has to come to a sudden stop to avoid hitting them. When the train pulls slowly away, Jack's father, John Oakes, who is president of the road, sees Jack and also sees what condition he is in. After

the train has passed by Silent Bill Brachely an escaped criminal comes out of the bushes and again Jack refuses to fight. Brachely forces them all to get out of the car and takes it to make good his escape.

The next morning Jack is disowned by his father and told to go out and provide for himself. He gets a job on the railroad under an assumed name and after a day at the job is ready to give up. While in the telegraph office sending a message to that effect to his father, he sees Brachely who had taken his car also writing a telegram. He manages to have the criminal held while he goes for the police. Brachely is finally overcome and caught in the home of Mary Travers. She is instantly attracted to Jack and invites him to call on her and her father, who is the engineer of the Midnight Express on his father's road. He goes to call after having fought and won a fight in the shops with some one who had thought to bully him. He was so excited during the fight that he had forgotten to be afraid and suddenly wakes up to find that he is no longer the coward that he was.

Time passes until one day he is promoted to engineer in the yards. That is his big day. He and Mary Travers are entirely in love with each other and decide to get married. Jack's father has been having his confidential agents report to him on Jack's progress and when he hears that Jack wants to get married he immediately goes to investigate. Finding Mary at home he sounds her about Jack without revealing his

identity, decides that Mary is entirely fit to be Jack's wife.

In the meantime Jack goes on his first engine and one of his train crew is run over and killed. This nearly drives Jack insane and he is unable to run his engine and leaves it to go off by himself, always seeing in front of him the smiling face of his dead comrade. During a very touching scene between Jack and Mary, she convinces him that he has to carry on for her sake and the sake of their love for each other. He can no longer run his engine and takes the job of agent at a lonely station. The night that he is on duty he goes to his place and gets a report that the Midnight Express is one hour late and that the freight can go through safely. Just after this report the door of the station opens and in walks Silent Bill Brachely who had escaped that day from prison.

He walks about and poor Jack knowing that Bill is out to "get" him for having sent Bill back to prison, gets more terrified as Bill walks closer and closer. The telephone rings and Jack gets the message that the express is on the main line and has made up twenty minutes and that a part of the freight has broken loose and is rushing backwards down the main line while the express is on the upgrade and they will crash if not stopped. Just then Bill starts the fight. The chairs are tossed about, the phone torn from the wall and used as a club. Jack just manages to prevent himself from being brained with an ax and fortunately his strength holds out long enough to take advantage of Bill and knock him out. Completely exhausted and covered with cuts and bruises, Jack rushes out and with great effort piles ties across the track in order to derail the freight. Then takes a red lantern, he runs down the line and collapses just after the engineer of the train has seen the red light.

In the glow of the burning freight cars which have been derailed, the passengers, among whom are Mary and his father, come up and find Jack in complete collapse. When he regains consciousness he finds the girl he loves bending over him and his father standing near and realizes that he has redeemed his love and become a man again.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mary Travers Elaine Hammerstein
Jack Oakes...William Haines
John Oakes...George Nichols
Joseph Davies...Lloyd Whitlock
James Travers Edwin Booth Tilton
Silent Bill Brachely Pat Harmon
Authur Bleydon Bertram Grassby
Jessie Sybil...Phyllis Haver
Switch Hogan...Roscoe Karns
Detective Collins Jack Richardson
Deputy Sheriff Noble Johnson
Railroad Operators.....
Dan Crimmins
George Meadows
Directed by George W. Hill
Adaptation by George W. Hill

OCT 31 1924

Washington, D. C.

Register of Copyrights
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following
named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of
copyright in the name of Columbia Pictures Corporation

The Midnight Express - 6 reels

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

The Columbia Pictures Corporation
hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the
motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright
Office as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
The Midnight Express	10-31-24	©CIL 20720

The return of the above copies was requested by the said
Company, by its agent and attorney on the 31st day of
October, 1924 and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself, and as
the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said Company,
hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies, and
the receipt thereof.

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